

# The Law



www.essex.police.uk

August 2005

## 'THIS IS JUST THE START' VOWS CHIEF



● Pc Carla Ewen finds her body armour a protection when approached by a threatening woman  
Photo by Nishan Wijeratne

### New body armour issued

ALL operational officers across the force are to be given personal-issue body armour within the next few weeks.

A recent evaluation day saw a variety of armour products assessed by operational officers, including Police Community Support Officers, who were able to select new body armour, which has met the highest standards in terms of officer safety as well as being both comfortable and practical for operational use. Weapons Trainer Sgt Tim Johnstone has been

involved in the process, which led to Essex Police choosing supplier Mehler Vario, which also supplies armour to a number of other forces, including the Metropolitan Police. "The day was very successful and the input from the officers who attended was invaluable," said Sgt Johnstone. "Work will now continue by the Officer Safety Group and Procurement to arrange order and purchase of the equipment at the earliest opportunity."

by Kate Batson and Ben Pennington

**THE first month of the force's concerted drive to boost arrests and detections has netted almost 2,000 additional prisoners above usual business.**

And now, a two-pronged campaign aimed at reassuring people in Essex as well as warning criminals in the county, has been launched by Chief Constable Roger Baker and Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers.

Mr Baker launched Operation Days of Action on his arrival at Essex Police on July 4, promising an extra 600 arrests above the force's 'business as usual figure' in seven days by making use of officers on standby during the G8 Summit in Scotland.

Days of Action marked a new commitment to use all available resources to reduce crime and maximise fear of arrest among the county's criminal element.

Now Mr Baker and Mr Chambers want to reassure residents that the police are doing everything they can to make their county even safer.

And there is also a message for criminals committing crime in the county: You have two choices, stop or you won't be going home.

So they have launched an innovative six-week advertising campaign, using posters on buses, which will be displayed county-wide.

In that time, the buses will be on the road for 18 hours a day and research shows that messages on them can be read by the same person on ten separate occasions.

Mr Baker said: "These posters will target a wide number of people in Essex and we hope the campaign will reassure people that we will continue to be tough on crime and criminals in Essex and we will do everything in our power to make the county even safer."

"The message to criminals is clear, either stop committing crime or you will be locked up."

"In the first week of Operation Days of Action, we made 1,717 arrests."

"We want to assure people that this was not a one-week wonder - this attitude will continue permanently and this campaign is about us delivering that message to the communities we serve," said Mr Baker.

And he pointed out that the campaign was also a reminder to people to contact the police - either their local police station or in confidence, via CrimeStoppers, on 0800 555 111 - with any information they may have about specific crimes or individuals committing crime.

"We want to work together with communities to stamp out crime, nuisance and disorder," he said. And Mr Chambers backed his stance.

"Keeping crime levels down is a top priority and we want Essex residents to be aware that they will continue to see this robust approach to tackling crime in Essex - and this is what this poster campaign is all about."

In the first week of Days of Action, police divisions across Essex wasted no time in taking the game to the crooks.

Day one saw 187 arrests beyond normal business. By the end of the first week, almost 900 extra prisoners had seen the back door of one of the force's police stations.

Mr Baker said: "This shows the criminals out there that we mean business."

"These arrests were not a fluke, and they were not a one-off."

"In a week when people thought they would get a second-class service from us because of abstractions to the G8 summit, we showed that we will get results by getting back to basics."

"This is just the start of a new way of doing business."

By Sunday, July 31, arrests under Days of Action - which aimed at securing an average of 400 additional arrests a week - had risen to 1,946 above 'business as usual' figures for the month.

"The public rightly expect us to take criminals off their streets and that's exactly what we're going to do," said Mr Baker.

"Offenders need to know that we're out in force and to expect a call from us soon."

● THE first 20 officers from support roles returned to front-line policing last week.

Chief Constable Roger Baker said: "The public want to see more officers on the beat and we will put extra officers on the front line."

"We will continue this until March 31, 2006, when we will have 200."

The move has been made as part of Essex Police's commitment to increase the number of police officers tackling crime, nuisance and disorder in our local communities.

It is partly being achieved through a review and restructure of current Essex Police posts. In some cases work will be consumed by other posts, in others the work will be streamlined.

The review will not impact adversely on the service Essex Police provides and neither will the wealth of expertise within the force be adversely affected.

Essex Police Authority Chairman Robert Chambers said he and fellow authority members were 'delighted' at the start Mr Baker had made with the force.

He added: "I am a great believer in giving the public what they want, and this is what Mr Baker's style of policing is all about. "This campaign is about reassuring the communities we serve and we welcome their feedback on any issues."



# Notes on how to 'act up'

THIS month I highlight the issues and questions often asked by those in acting and temporary sergeant positions.

**What is acting up?**

A constable who is asked during the course of his/her duties to undertake duties normally performed by a sergeant is generally referred to as 'acting up'. A constable may be asked to perform such duties on any basis, such as 'one-off', daily or weekly. There is no provision which defines acting up and it is a matter of fact whether a Pc is or is not performing the duties of a sergeant. The main effect of acting up is that a temporary salary becomes payable if a constable acts up for more than 14 days in a year. The period of acting up will cease either at the end of the period for which it was agreed that the officer would act up or when the officer is ordered to cease carrying out the duties of a sergeant. A Pc may be ordered to cease acting up at any time. **What is temporary promotion?** Temporary promotion is provided for in the Promotion Regulations and occurs where a Pc, who is qualified

to sergeant, is promoted on a temporary basis where there is no vacancy for a substantive sergeant. For these purposes, to be qualified means an officer must have passed both parts of the OSPRE examinations. Temporary promotion is usually for a stated period but need not be. A temporary promotion may cease at any time, at which point the officer will revert to the rank of constable. **What is the difference between the two?** The main difference between acting up and temporary promotion is that, for the purposes of the former, the member remains a constable and simply undertakes duties which are the duties of a sergeant. An officer who is temporarily promoted, on the other hand, becomes a sergeant until the end of the temporary promotion. This distinction leads to several important differences in practice, such as pay and probation and these are dealt with in more detail below. **Who can act up?** Any constable can be asked to act up. It is a matter of fact if a Pc is performing duties usually performed by a sergeant and an officer may, therefore, be acting up

without specifically being told that they are doing so. **Can you be required to act up?** A request to a constable to carry out duties usually performed by a sergeant is likely to be a lawful order within the meaning of Regulations and a constable can, therefore, be required to act up even though he or she is not keen to do so. A disciplinary offence may, therefore, be committed by an officer who refuses a lawful order to act up although, as a matter of good management, requests to act up should be made with the consent of the officer. There may also be health and safety issues if an officer who has had inadequate training is required to act up in a role where lack of training may put the officer or others at risk. **What is the effect on pay?** Where a Pc has been acting up for 14 full days in any year, or the appropriate amount of hours, ie for 14 tours of duty, he or she will be entitled to a temporary salary under Regulations for the next full day and any subsequent days in that year in which he or she acts up. For these purposes, the year is each period of 12 months from April 1.

The rate of the temporary salary for the 15th and subsequent days is the lowest rate of pay for sergeants. Where an officer is engaged in a continuous period of acting up overlapping two years, a temporary salary is payable for the whole period. The provision means the whole period of acting up is included in the previous year. In the second year, the part of the period of acting up will not count towards the 14 days of unpaid acting up. **Does a period of acting up have any impact on pension?** Temporary salary constitutes pensionable pay for the purposes of the Pension Regulations. Average pensionable pay will reflect periods of paid acting up during the year before retirement. **Can you still act as a member of the Constables' Branch Board?** A constable who acts up remains a constable and there are, therefore, no issues arising from periods of acting up which could affect the officer's position on a Constables' Branch Board. **Performing custody officer duties** A Pc who is acting up does not hold the rank of sergeant and is, therefore, not qualified to be appointed a

custody officer for a designated station or, unless the custody officer is not readily available, to perform custody officer duties at a designated station under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. **Issues arising on subsequent promotion to substantive sergeant** **What is the effect on pay increments?** When an officer is promoted to full substantive sergeant, previous periods of acting up are not reckonable as service in the rank of sergeant for pay purposes. The appropriate category of pay for a sergeant is determined by the number of years' service in the rank of sergeant. The Regulations provide that periods of acting up are not to be taken into account for the purposes of reckoning service as a sergeant for pay purposes. **Qualification for promotion to the rank of inspector** Under Promotion Regulations, a sergeant is qualified for promotion to the rank of inspector if he or she has passed the necessary examination and completed two years' service in the rank

of sergeant. For similar reasons to those set out above in relation to the probation period, periods of acting up do not constitute service in the rank of sergeant for these purposes. On promotion to either rank, your competency-related threshold payment would stop until you were on the top-rank pay scale for one year. You would then re-apply. **Who is eligible for temporary promotion?** The Promotion Regulations provide for temporary promotion to sergeant, provided the officer is qualified for promotion. This provides that in order to qualify for promotion, an officer must have passed the qualifying examination (ie both parts of OSPRE), have completed two years' service and completed the constables' probationary period. **Can temporary promotion be imposed?** Although not entirely clear, an officer who is offered temporary promotion may refuse to accept the appointment. Good management practice should dictate that only an officer who is willing to accept temporary promotion should be required to do so.

# Police divorce representation, it's an open and shut case.

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## Worried about your pension? Talk to Gorvins, the police divorce specialists.

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# Our tough new attitude is here to stay

“ ADAPTING to change is always difficult but I am delighted at the way my officers and staff have embraced my style of policing and produced good results so quickly. Days of Action is not a PR stunt or a one-off but will remain for the entire time I am here and must become a permanent stance within Essex Police. Our job is to reassure the public by reducing the fear of crime. We will continue to target the small minority of criminals and make them realise the chances of them getting caught have increased significantly. My message to the criminal fraternity is to keep looking over your shoulder. If we haven't caught up with you yet,

## After a busy first month in post, Essex Police Chief Constable Roger Baker gives his views so far ...

it's only a matter of time. But we still have work to do. We know what the people of Essex want and our aim is to deliver it.

- **More officers on the beat**  
We will continue to increase the number of police officers on the front line to boost public confidence in our force. But we will not allow our support services to suffer as a result.

- **Improved communication with the public**

We encourage the public to provide us, in confidence, with useful information about specific crimes or criminals. We want the public to know that we will act on such information. Without the help of our community we are nothing.

- **Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour**

We are committed to driving down crime in what is already a safe county. Any crime is one too many. We know who and where the criminals are but we need help to seal convictions. Challenging times are ahead but we can all work together to make Essex even safer. ”



● Chief Constable Roger Baker outlines to the media his views on policing, as Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers listens

Pick out the best for awards

THE dedication of people working in the criminal justice system makes a dramatic difference to people's lives.

And this is why nominations are being sought for awards which recognise outstanding performance.

The Essex Criminal Justice Board intends to use the opportunity of the national Justice Awards 2005 to reward and recognise those teams and individuals who gone the extra mile by also holding its own Essex Justice Awards event in October.

The most deserving local nominations will be selected before they go forward for national shortlisting.

The five individual award categories cover caring for witnesses, working with offenders, tackling youth crime, engaging local communities and continued commitment and dedication.

And there are six team award categories, including an award for innovation, plus a partnership award.

- Nominations should be sent to the Essex Criminal Justice Board by post or via email at [ecjb@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ecjb@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk) by Friday, September 2.

Visit [www.cjsonline.gov.uk/justiceawards](http://www.cjsonline.gov.uk/justiceawards) for details.

- AND staff from across Essex Police are also being asked to nominate unsung heroes or heroines in the county for the annual Pride of Britain awards to be held in London later this year.

Sponsored by The Mirror, the awards enable police staff and officers to recognise people who have been involved in outstanding acts of bravery or colleagues who have done something exceptional in the past 18 months.

- Log on to the awards website [www.prideofbritain.com](http://www.prideofbritain.com) for details.

## By thunder!

STAFF manning the service desk in IT are still receiving 'silly' calls from customers.

They emphasise that some queries can be solved by common sense. The highlight of the many calls received by the service desk in July was particularly seasonal:

**Caller:** I have a thunder fly inside my screen, I can see it moving across my screen.

**Helpdesk:** Just leave it alone and it will eventually crawl out by itself.

# Vigilance is key to policing terrorism

A national role for the chairman

ESSEX Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers has been appointed deputy chairman of the Association of Police Authorities (APA).

Mr Chambers will serve in his new role for one year, after which it is renewable.

The APA represents police authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, both on the national stage and locally.

It influences policy on policing and supports local police authorities in their role of maintaining effective and efficient police services.

Mr Chambers said: "I am proud and privileged to be appointed. It will give me the opportunity to influence policing for Essex on a more national scale and it is my intention to put Essex on the map and make it the best police force in the country."

"I can also work towards shaping the future of policing, which is a great honour and something I am looking forward to."

## Making ANPR work for you

OFFICERS across the force are urged to think ANPR when recording intelligence.

ANPR – automatic number plate recognition – compares pictures of registration plates with a database to see if a vehicle is wanted.

But the system relies on officers remembering to use the ANPR intelligence database properly.

ANPR Intercept officer, Pc Steve Tisseyre, said: "With the ever-increasing amount of ANPR devices being introduced in Essex, there is now a real chance that we can get vehicles stopped, which should increase our chances to gather information or make arrests."

- For more information on how to add details to the database, visit <http://web/divisions/msd/anpr>

## We're all equal

A NEW force Equality Scheme setting out how we shall eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote equality and good relations has been published.

- Visit the HR department website on the intranet, click on Equal Opportunities and then on Equality Scheme.



● Basildon crime reduction officer Steven Greener with one of the 'talking signs' for the town centre Photo courtesy of Echo Newspapers

## A very 'telling' initiative

A NEW crime reduction technique is being tried out in Basildon - talking messages.

Little black boxes attached to lampposts are activated by the movement of a passer-by and give out messages such as 'Don't become a victim of car crime!', 'Beware of pickpockets' and 'CCTV operates in this area'.

Crime reduction officer Steven Greener said the boxes should make shoppers more aware of their surroundings and encourage them to be more careful of their belongings. "We can get a general message across to shoppers, making them

more aware and, hopefully, less likely to be a victim of crime," said Mr Greener.

So if Basildon police want to make people aware of a particular issue, such as pickpocketing or thefts from vehicles, the boxes will give out an appropriate message.

Three of the boxes - which are thought to be the first in use in Essex - have been installed in Basildon town centre and Mr Greener hopes to get more soon. The black boxes, which are vandal-proof, can also be set to give out messages regularly, from every 10 seconds to every two hours.

by Kim Perks

## WHEN bombers struck in the UK last month they destroyed the lives of dozens of innocent commuters and their families.

Essex may not have been at the centre of the horrific attacks but the county's proximity to London has added to the unease, and chief officers have expressed their appreciation at the way in which police officers and staff have risen to the challenges.

Muslims, in particular, are worried about of attacks against themselves and their property but the high-visibility policing response to the bombings has provided much-needed reassurance and is reaping positive feedback from all members of the community, regardless of race and religion.

Increased vigilance and receptiveness to community concerns and the positive approach to offences have seen at least one individual in Essex charged with making hoax bomb threats and are helping to send a clear message that we will not tolerate terrorism.

In addition to the day-to-day policing, a strategic group has been meeting regularly and a number of specialist commanders have been ready to react to any eventuality and activate relevant plans and procedures.

Divisional commanders have identified key areas across the county which are seen as particularly vulnerable.

A wealth of other expertise has also been called upon, not least family liaison support following the announcement that Essex residents were among those killed in the July 7 blasts.

Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) John Broughton said: "I am aware that many officers and staff have worked hard to help us to respond to the consequences of the attacks on London. I am extremely grateful for everyone's continued commitment."

"As well as ensuring that Essex Police maintains a high standard of service, this dedication, particularly in the area of high-visibility policing, is providing significant reassurance to all members of our community."

"The people of Essex and the rest of the country are determined that terrorists will not win," said Mr Broughton.

"It is up to us to match their resolve with a continued dedication to providing them with a safe and reassuring environment in which to live and work."

- Special Constables have been praised for their 'magnificent' response to requests for help with high-visibility policing across the county by Commandant George Cook.

Many have carried out extra duties in the past month and some offered to give up their holidays to boost the force response.

**HAVE YOUR SAY:** Write to Heather Turner, Law Letters, Press Office, Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DA.

Letters and emails must include full name and home town. We reserve the right to edit letters. Please be aware The Law is reproduced on the internet and circulated to the media.

## Colleague's fags 'drove us round the bend'

A CHANCE and enjoyable meeting with an ex-police colleague gave rise to much nostalgic and humorous banter.

Much of this centred around a Standard Driving Course back in the mid 1960s, when he and I were part of the same 'crew' for the five weeks duration.

Our instructor was Sgt Peter Tomlinson, a superb driver with a very sharp wit.

Peter's sense of humour helped to sooth many nervous moments - I was very sorry to read in The Law that he had passed away.

We were joined by our third colleague - I will mention no names - the only smoker. He rolled his own and was the owner of a very clever hand-rolling machine, the patent 'Job', a square, chrome-plated tin, the inside of which contained 'the makings' while the lid comprised a series of rollers.

### Ingredients assembled

The ingredients for the finished article were assembled within these rollers, the final piece of the jigsaw being the paper.

The lid of the machine had a small slit and, upon its closure, the final immaculate product was ejected.

Our colleague's hand-rolling skills became part of everyday life, which we viewed at every refreshment stop with almost hypnotic interest.

We began to notice that if our colleague had been subjected to a particularly difficult time at the wheel, the lid of his machine at tea-break closed with rather more force, ejecting the fag into the air.

### The 'late run'

Now, we had been dreading the 'late run', which involved evening and night driving in and around London.

We began to wonder if the hand-rolling tin would cope with the additional forces to which it might have been subjected due to advanced stress.

Our smoking colleague had the final drive before the refreshment stop. No sooner had we entered the door than out came the tin.

We were conscious of our colleague's rather frantic rolling procedures and we knew he was pretty angry with himself at his below-par drive.

### Slammed shut

Suddenly, the tin slammed shut with some ferocity. We expected the projectile to launch to record-breaking heights.

To our shock, a little flurry of loose tobacco fell sadly to the floor, followed by the almost feather-like flutter of the descending Rizla paper.

It was the biggest let-down of the whole five weeks - our colleague had forgotten to lick the paper.

We all completed that course with the maximum third-class 'ticket' and enough humorous memories to fill a book.

**Dave Rose**  
Linton  
Cambridgeshire

## Our £12,000 sponsorship was a 'waste' ...

I HAVE served with Essex Police for the past 25 years and, during that time, worked with people of various religious, sexual and political persuasions.

There have been differences of opinion and discussions, even arguments, but these have only enhanced the working relationships between colleagues.

I am beginning to wonder now if all the recent focusing on the minority

groups who make up part of Essex Police staff is a good thing.

I personally am sick and tired of hearing about the expected rights and privileges of gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual staff.

I think this will only create division between themselves and heterosexual staff rather than unite them.

I also consider £12,000 spent on a

'gleaming' police bike, some sticks of rock and a few fortune cookies at the Celebrate conference - as reported in the June and July editions of The Law - to be a waste of money as, surely, all potential recruits are treated equally upon application through the normal channels.

**Steve Card**  
HQ Scenes of Crime

## ... no it was not - the money was well spent

I WANTED to respond to Det Con Stephen Card to make it clear why Essex Police decided to sponsor the Celebrate conference about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) policing issues.

I would ask him to consider the facts.

We police a diverse county and, as an integral part of tackling crime, nuisance and disorder, we inevitably deal with offences of hate crime against members of the LGBT community.

Understanding their concerns and enjoying their trust and confidence makes us more effective in our jobs in catching criminals and reducing crime; part of the reason we set up divisional Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Units.

To help us achieve our policing aims, we need to recruit and retain high-calibre staff and it is important that those staff reflect the diversity of the county that we police.

We did have a recruiting stand at the Celebrate conference, held at the start of July, because we are always keen to attract high-calibre staff, including transferees.

I would be very disappointed if our support for this conference were to create any division between different groups of staff.

The Essex Police team will be stronger and will deliver an even better job if it reflects the diversity of the community that it serves.

**Assistant Chief Constable**  
**Andy Bliss**  
HQ

# Pay slip decision is 'disrespectful'

**I AM not usually the sort of person who spends my retirement writing letters of complaint.**

But the letter I received informing me and 2,500 other police pensioners that, from this month, we will no longer be receiving monthly payslips has prompted me to write.

The main reason given is a saving to Essex Police of £10,000 per year to be used for 'sharp end' policing.

As someone who served for over 31 years, until 1988 as a police officer, I regard this as a most insulting gesture.

To me, it gives the impression that police pensioners and the service they performed in the past have little or no significance to the current management

that they cannot even be bothered in communicating with them on a monthly basis.

In addition to my police pension, I receive a pension from the Legal Services Commission. It only manages my monthly payments by taxing me at the basic rate, as my tax allowances and coding apply only to my police pension.

Yet, not only does the commission continue to send monthly pay slips, it frequently sends information about current legislation affecting pensioners.

I have not spoken to other Essex Police pensioners but I am sure, like me, they will feel insulted by this announcement, which will save such a derisory amount in the overall police budget.

**Peter Smith**  
Church Stretton  
Shropshire

● Rick Tazzini, Director of Finance and Administration, replies: The decision, regrettable though it is, was not taken lightly by Chief Officers.

Both the letter to pensioners and the article in The Law (July 2005) fully explained the reasons behind the decision.

There is no legal obligation to provide a notification of monthly pension payments. But, any pensioner who requires a pension payslip for the purposes of verifying current income to third parties will still be able to do so by contacting the force payroll team.

From the 2,500 letters sent out, we have received just seven letters of complaint, which I have taken as a sign that there is overwhelming support to direct the financial saving into tackling crime, nuisance and disorder in Essex.

## Old pupils are welcome at our school reunion

I SAW one of my old Earls Colne Grammar School photographs, taken in 1950, at the last school reunion I attended in May.

In it I recognised two former pupils, David Westrop and Michael Beckwith, both of whom later became Essex Police officers.

I would very much like to make contact with them and, indeed, any

other 'Old Colonians' who have or might still be serving.

The school closed some 30 years ago, so the youngest members of the fraternity will now be in their 40s.

They can contact me via email at [kathwill@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:kathwill@blueyonder.co.uk) or at the address below with a view to attending next year's school reunion, on a date yet to be decided.

I retired from Essex Police Force in 1987 at the rank of inspector. I was stationed variously at Chelmsford, Maldon, Colchester, South Ockendon, Harlow, HQ Emergency Planning, Stanway Traffic and Chelmsford Traffic.

**Brian Williams**  
13 Oaklea Avenue  
Springfield  
Chelmsford CM2 6BY

## Gone . . . but not forgotten

**Sgt 32 Edmund Sleight Frost – Essex County Constabulary.**  
Served from March 8, 1929. Died April 8, 1948

SGT Edmund Frost lived and worked in Halstead before being posted to the opposite end of the county when he joined the force. He worked at various stations in the Romford division before being promoted to sergeant, returning briefly to the rural end of Essex before being posted back to Romford at the start of World War Two.

Sgt Frost was commended by the Chief Constable for consistent good work in air raids on Romford.

In August 1946, he had a long period of sick leave after being kicked by a deserter. He returned to work and was posted to Harlow but succumbed to a fatal disease which was directly related to the injury which he had received on duty.



● Sgt Edmund Frost

For details of all those featured in the Essex Police Roll of Honour visit the Memorial Trust website at [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk) If you have any information you feel could be added to the website email [memorialtrust@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:memorialtrust@essex.pnn.police.uk) or write to the Memorial Trust at police headquarters.

EVENING walks by the sea prompted Frinton on Sea resident Norman Hidden to pen this poem in tribute to acting Sgt Brian 'Bill' Bishop, who was shot in the head by an armed robber and died five days later, on August 27, 1984.

His murder prompted the creation of the Essex Police Memorial Trust.

Mr Hidden, 91, says: "I live in Frinton-on-Sea, very near the scene of Pc Bishop's death. I did not know him personally, but I was inspired to write the poem by the courage and devotion to duty shown by this young officer."

"My evening walks by the sea often take me past the site and the memorial stone which was later put up to commemorate his death."

Mr Hidden served in the Army during World War Two and is a former vice-president of the Poetry Society of Great Britain and retired university lecturer.

### Here Pc Bishop Fell

The glazed memorial stone recounts no further tale: Unpretentious, it jolts the memory – A moment's violent shock Amid green leas along the cliff, A headland facing out to sea.

A good spot, one might think, to die (If any spot is good to die) Had death not come so sharp By the grey blaze of a robber's gun.

On the leas boys and girls play cricket With tennis balls and sprawling wickets – Bags, baskets, jackets, anything to hand. There are shouts and laughter,

Arguments, an umpire to decide "How's that?"

But Bishop had no umpire, shouts nor laughter.

He gave the warning that the law required: "I am an armed policeman. Put down your gun."

Surprised at such a reprieve, the robber Showed no mercy.

A memorial stone is all that now, Remains. We need the stone. Not he: As high on the cliff, glazed and eyeless, It stares beyond the sea's horizon Towards eternity.

# Corner the chairman



● Essex Police Authority chairman Robert Chambers

## Working together for same result

“ I AM, first and foremost, delighted to have Mr Baker on board as Chief Constable of Essex Police and I am looking forward to working with him to achieve the very best for Essex residents. There are exciting times ahead for us all and I urge you to embrace the changes that have already occurred within the service and to support Mr Baker as much as you can over the next five years. His aim and mine is to strive to have the best police force in the country but we cannot do it without your help. It requires all of us working towards this one objective.

I hope that everyone's ambitions are alike in that we all want to succeed; we want to keep crime levels low and detection rates high and I'm sure we will all be pulling in the same direction. The police authority will be offering all the support we can to Mr Baker and the police service as a whole. But additionally our job is to monitor, scrutinise and challenge the work of the police service, which will also continue.

But, be assured, the selection panel appointed Mr Baker because he shares our vision for the future; eg more visible policing and better contact with the communities we all serve. Essex is already a force with a fantastic reputation; let's build on the excellent foundations that are already in place and go forward to an even greater level of policing. Please follow us to these new heights; I hope you are all as enthused as I am about what is to come. Any changes will be made for the better for everyone working for Essex Police and for the people of Essex, and that is something to be inspired about. ”

Robert Chambers, chairman of Essex Police Authority

● If you would like to ask Mr Chambers any questions on this or any other issue, then please send them to Kate Batson, Press and PR Officer, Essex Police Authority. Mr Chambers will select some and his answers will appear next month.



● Braintree Taxi Association chairman Alan Holden launches the new initiative with police crime reduction advisor Chris West

Photo courtesy of the Evening Gazette

## Cabbies watch out for bad behaviour

CABBIES have joined forces with the police to help reduce crime and disorder in Braintree. Braintree Taxi Watch involves nine firms belonging to Braintree District Taxi Association. Customers have the comfort of knowing that the black and yellow Taxi Watch sticker shows the driver is a member of the scheme. Drivers have been issued with a leaflet offering safety advice and how

to help the police by providing information. And the police benefit by having more eyes and ears on the street. Drivers can phone a special Taxi Watch hotline at Braintree Police Station 24/7 with information, such as someone behaving suspiciously or concern about trouble brewing, but 999 will still be used for reporting a crime in progress. Braintree District Taxi Association chairman Alan Holden said: “Our

taxis cover a wide area and operate day and night. Observing suspicious situations and being able to communicate quickly with the police will contribute to a safer environment for the community.” He added that all taxis licensed by Braintree Council had compulsory identifying plates and all licensed drivers had an ID badge and had been vetted by the police.

# New ViSOR gives unit a much better view

**OFFICERS from the force's Public Protection Unit can now access the first national intelligence database of sexual and violent offenders and others of potential danger to the public.**

ViSOR – the Violent offender and Sex Offenders Register – was developed by the Police Information Technology Organisation, working with police forces.

Following successful pilots, the system will be rolled out nationally this year. ViSOR gives the unit the

by Ben Pennington

capability to update the shared database following risk assessments or visits to offenders in the community.

In future, information added to ViSOR by a probation officer anywhere in the country will become immediately available to an officer making a routine visit to an offender in Essex.

Prior to the system's development, enforcement agencies relied on unconnected local databases to record offenders' details, making it difficult to keep tabs on them when they moved.

The system holds detailed information on offenders, from descriptions

and distinguishing marks to hobbies, photos, modus operandi and conditions of licence or Sexual Offence Prevention Orders (SOPOs).

Ed Luxton, of the Public Protection Unit, said: “Legislation has placed a joint responsibility on all forces and the probation service to monitor and risk assess these people.

“ViSOR is an important monitoring tool that will enable us to carry out our responsibilities more effectively. But it is important that intelligence is passed on to the local monitoring officer in each division as well.”

● For more details about the project, contact Ed Luxton on ext 52432.

## War vet's invite for Queen's anniversary lunch

ONE of the last men to have fought in World War Two and served as a policeman before it started has had lunch with the Queen. Ex-Chief Supt Harry Smith, 87, joined other war heroes for part of the 60th anniversary celebrations of the end of fighting in 1945. “We had a perfect day, it went like a well-oiled machine,” said Mr Smith, of Little Waltham, whose name had been put forward by the National Association

of Retired Police Officers for the honour. He joined Essex Police in 1938 and was transferred to Romford a fortnight before war broke out in September 1939 - working through the horrors of the Blitz. A stroke of luck saw his application to train as a pilot accepted in 1941 and he joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve. Flying single-engined aeroplanes, Mr Smith joined the Empire Training Scheme and instructed US

Army Air Force pilots before returning home to fly Spitfires. After stints in the Middle East and Burma, he returned home in December 1945 - one of the few pilots of single-engined craft to have survived five years - to marry Joyce, now 86. Rejoining Essex Police he ended up back in Romford on a night shift before transferring to HQ, first on motor patrols and then as an instructor sergeant at the driving school.

Promotion followed through the ranks, alternating between general duties, driver training and traffic until, as chief superintendent of the traffic department, Mr Smith helped to reorganise it into a division. He was also responsible for introducing VASCAR after spotting an article about it in a US magazine. After retiring in 1973, Mr Smith worked for a VASCAR supply firm and travelled the world.



● Ex-Chief Supt Harry Smith Photo by Susan Wright

## Nick and her family find they like living on the Edge abroad

THE challenge of running a marathon abroad appealed to T/Chief Insp Nick Burston, who is seconded to the No Witness No Justice project.

So she and three family members jetted off to Canada to take part in the Edge to Edge marathon on Vancouver Island. Nick, 42, previously of

Chigwell RPU, finished in 4hrs 35mins while her mum Judy, 68, was just two minutes behind. Her partner Paul Clark, 37, and her mother's partner Gwyn

Hughes, 57, also competed. Judy raised around £500 for the Blue Cross animal charity while Paul raised money for Basildon Town Ladies' FC.

# Partnership working gets results

POLICE from Clacton's Problem Solving Team are delighted their work with residents and supermarket staff in Great Clacton has helped to stamp out anti-social behaviour. The problems had centred on the car park behind the Somerfield store and included abandoned cars being set on fire, under-age drinking, criminal damage and nuisance noise. The behaviour was making life intolerable for residents until, in July last year, Pc Jane Goldsbrough arranged a meeting with residents, police, Tendring District Council, Somerfield's store manager and nearby St John's Church. Afterwards, Somerfield introduced coin-operated shopping trolleys, removed display boards, rearranged delivery times and removed wheelie bins. Metal fencing and a gate were installed and a vehicle barrier restricted access to the rear section. As a result, both police and the fire service have seen a dramatic reduction in the number of calls to the area. Pc Goldsbrough said: "Anti-social behaviour was making residents' lives a misery and we are really pleased to see the changes which have taken place."

## ACTION - it's simple really

RESPONSE vehicles at Grays will always be ready for action - thanks to a really simple idea. And it's one which could prevent a colleague or member of the public from serious injury or worse. Response officers have now got into the habit of always reversing their vehicles into the parking bays at the rear of the police station so they can be driven straight out. Apart from greatly reducing the risk of damaging them if several reverse out at once, the move has helped to improve response times. Thurrock's Divisional Crime Manager Chief Insp Adrian Tyson said: "The parking at Grays, like many other stations, is a nightmare. "Our police vehicles have to negotiate narrow channels and tight bends just to get out of the station. "I asked the DPT sergeants to encourage officers to reverse into parking bays rather than park nose in." The move speeds up response times to 999 calls and to 'officer assistance' calls, too, as well as making best use of the space available.

## Hogroast fun

HAVE you booked your tickets for the IPA hog roast at the Sports and Social club at HQ for Sunday, August 14? It starts at 1pm with the hog roast - served with salads, bread rolls and desserts - from 2pm and entertainment from a five-piece jazz group, all for £12 per head. Contact John Eady on 01245 223095, Norman Eastbrook on 01245 542580 or Bill Fancourt on 01245 225569 or at bpfancourt@clara.co.uk



● From left, Essex Police launch Vigilant III, an RNLI lifeboat, a police rigid-hulled inflatable and an HM Coastguard helicopter get in on the action as Southend's Pier Head is 'cut off' from dry land

# A life on the ocean wave

## SMOKE billows out of Southend Pier's South Station on a balmy summer evening, cutting the end of the pier off from the beach.

And 300 people huddle at the Pier Head, hoping they will be the next to be winched or sailed to safety.

Such an emergency scenario could face the Southend Division at any time. But luckily this was Exercise Embrace - designed to test all emergency services and ensure that when danger rears its head all are ready to react quickly and smoothly.

The live exercise was primarily to test the pier's new emergency evacuation plan, drawn up by HM Coastguard. But of course, the plan depends on the co-operation of a number of agencies, not least Essex Police. The good news is that all 300 volunteers were taken off the pier to safety in around two hours. Maritime and Coastguard Agency area operations manager Murray Milligan said afterwards: "This exercise was an excellent opportunity to test the responses of all agencies to a major incident."

"In addition it was an opportunity to fully test the new evacuation plan. "Lessons learnt from this exercise will be used to amend the plan as necessary and it will be recommended as a template for other piers in the country." As it was, representatives from Blackpool and Bournemouth district councils, the Port of London Authority and Sussex County Council joined observers from Essex County Council viewing events unfold during Exercise Embrace, on June 30. Southend's lifeboat crews were soon joined at the main slipway by colleagues from Sheerness and Gravesend. And Essex Police rigid-hulled inflatables Seaxe and Watchfull II joined the fray, alongside the police launch Vigilant III. They helped to ensure a smooth evacuation of many of those 'trapped' at the end of the pier back on to dry land. More dramatic was the arrival of Sea King rescue helicopters from Wattisham Airfield in Suffolk and

by Heather Turner

ARCC Kinloss (the Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre, based at RAF Kinloss) in Scotland and a Coastguard Rescue Helicopter, too.

Pinpoint accuracy was required by the pilots as they hovered over the Pier Head while a crew member was lowered to pick up a 'casualty' before the pair were winched back aboard, for their journey to London Southend Airport. Meanwhile Essex Fire and Rescue Service used the 'marine incident' to practise putting out a serious fire which was difficult to get at. The police also worked with Southend Borough Council in controlling matters onshore and along Southend's seafront as the incident unfolded. And Essex Ambulance Service concentrated on setting up a casualty-clearing station and support facilities. Southend Divisional Commander Chief Supt Jackie Cheer said the exercise had been successful.

"It showed that the response of everyone involved worked well together, successfully and safely evacuating the people who were acting as casualties and evacuees," she said. "As always with these exercises, lessons will be learned and the services and partners have arranged a meeting at which the currently successful plans will be improved on."

The meeting, due to be held at the end of last month, was also to examine contingency plans for dealing with casualties and their relatives and the media after an evacuation has been completed. Southend-on-Sea Borough Council's Emergency Planning Officer Keith Holden said: "The evacuation exercise was a complete success. "Lessons were learned, which will be incorporated into future emergency planning procedures. "The event also showed the success of various different agencies working together."

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● Volunteers slowly board the Essex Police launch Vigilant III as Southend Pier 'burns' in the background, above

● A lifeboat crew gets ready to dock at Southend Pier's main slipway prior to picking up casualties and evacuees during Exercise Embrace, right

● 'Survivors' are transported to the shore by members of Essex Police Marine Unit, left

Exercise Embrace photos by Heather Turner



● Pcs Jon Barr and Simon Lofting patrol on Sentinel in the Solent, with HMS Albion in the background, during the Trafalgar 200 celebrations

# Marine unit helps T200 celebrations

OFFICERS from Essex Police Marine Section took part in the Trafalgar 200 celebrations and Royal review of the fleet in The Solent. The celebrations on June 28 were held as part of the 200th anniversary of Admiral Lord Nelson's victory and death at the battle of Trafalgar in 1805 - a battle which ensured Britain's domination of the seas for more than a century afterwards. The Essex Police launch Alert IV and the rigid

inflatable Sentinel, together with six Essex Police officers, assisted Hampshire Constabulary with Fleet and VIP security. The Alert IV was sailed to The Solent in a 14-hour journey. The Sentinel was taken by road. During the event marine policing around the Essex coastline was provided by the remaining officers and vessels from the Essex Police Marine Section, based at Burnham-on-Crouch.

# Safety day has a great turn-out

THE town plan of South Woodham Ferrers, which has the three emergency services and Primary Care Trust located within a stone's throw of each other, made planning for the first community safety day much easier.

More than 1,000 people passed through the doors of the police station on July 2. On display were personnel carriers, a marine rigid inflatable boat, a Bike Safe police motorbike and camera safety van along with crime reduction advice and information.

Youngsters were invited to make up their own wanted poster and the custody suite was also busy. Meanwhile, Essex Fire and Rescue Service demonstrated that hot oil and water don't mix, and there was a display of fire engines and equipment and the fireboat.

Essex Ambulance Service showed off an ambulance with vital live-saving equipment, Maldon and South Chelmsford Primary Care Trust offered health advice and Chelmsford Borough Council, the Neighbourhood Environment Action Team (NEAT), Asda stores and the town council were also involved.

South Woodham Ferrers inspector Chris Kilgallen said: "We were all very pleased with how the day went; it was a tremendous turnout, especially because we were competing with Wimbledon and the Live 8 concerts."

"We also managed to raise £65 from money given for people to be put in the stocks and this will be donated to the Essex Air Ambulance."

## We need space

WEAPONS trainers are looking for secluded areas and large buildings where officers can train.

It is preferable that the public can't view the training although the building or area does not have to be totally removed from public access. The venues would be required for a working day. ● Anyone who may have suitable premises can contact Pc Graham Bloomfield at HQ training centre on 01245 452429 or ext 53655.

## Party on down

THE Essex Police pensioners' garden party has a new date. Cancelled earlier this month because of the 7/7 attacks on London, the party will now be held on Friday, September 16, at 2.30pm at HQ training centre.

● Anyone who wants to attend but did not return an acceptance form for the July garden party can contact Jan Pyner in Welfare on 01245 452990.

## Watching the road

BRAINTREE Division has more than doubled use of its Automatic Number Plate Recognition system, making crooks increasingly likely to run the roadside 'magic eye' gauntlet.

ANPR is now being deployed five days a week across the division at different times.

## Law Classifieds

### Holiday lets

**COSTA Blanca**, three-bed, detached villa, one double, two twin, two bathrooms, lounge/dining room, kitchen, balcony, solarium, garden, DVD, Sky, barbecues, close to beaches and three golf courses. Ring 07814 591129 or email [brian.cook@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:brian.cook@essex.pnn.police.uk)

**COSTA Calida**, La Manga, two-bedroom apartment, sleeps six. Overlooking golf course and sea, 20 yards to beach. Gardens, two pools, tennis. Sailing school close by. Cheap flights to Murcia or Alicante. Ring Gary Franklin on 07753 606996.

**FLORIDA**, Disney, four-bedroom villa, three bathrooms. Private pool, air conditioning, cable TVs, DVD, CD, PlayStation, games room. Golf five mins, Disney 15 mins. Ring 01625 431373 or 07881 614045, visit [www.mcaulayvilla.com](http://www.mcaulayvilla.com) or email [mcaulay60@hotmail.com](mailto:mcaulay60@hotmail.com)

**FLORIDA**, Gulf coast, luxury house, sleeps 10. Newly-built, four bedrooms, own pool/spa, beach 10 mins, many golf courses. From £495 per week. Visit [www.lemonbayvillas.com](http://www.lemonbayvillas.com)

**FLORIDA**, five-bedroom villa, sleeps 12. Three en-suites, air conditioning, games room with pool table, private, screened pool, Jacuzzi spa, Disney and Champions Gate golf course ten mins. From £600. Visit [www.floridianretreat.com](http://www.floridianretreat.com)

**FLORIDA**, Sarasota. Villa sleeps six. Quiet village environment. Communal pool, tennis, barbecue, clubhouse, hot tub, beautiful beaches. Contact Norma Gill via email at [norma@desgill.com](mailto:norma@desgill.com)

**FRANCE**, Loire Valley, stone cottage, sleeps two-four, beams, quiet village location, lots to do nearby. Calais five hours, Caen two hours. £150-£175 per week. Contact Emma Bowditch on 07711 421579 or email [emma.bowditch@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:emma.bowditch@essex.pnn.police.uk)

**FRENCH** farmhouse in the Poitou Charente region. Bordeaux and Royan beaches 45 mins. Three bedrooms plus sofa bed. Country walks and fabulous food. From £200 per week. Ring Derek Patten on 07958 209909.

**LAKESIDE** chalet, Cotswold Water Parks. Exclusive, fully-equipped, two bedrooms, one bathroom, kitchen, lounge and terrace. Leisure centre on site. From £150 to £300 per week. Ring Stuart McKie on 07973 639342.

**SCOTTISH Highlands**. Associates to police are welcome at our beautiful home on a B&B basis, offering en-suite and a welcome. Now offering fishing in private trout loch, shooting, walking, bird-watching, ski-ing or general 'chilling out' in stunning scenery in the Cairngorms National Park. Reductions for police. Ring Andy Nunn on 01479 841717 or e-mail [apf.nunn@btinternet.com](mailto:apf.nunn@btinternet.com)

**SOUTH** of France, three-bedroom villa, sleeps six, quiet complex. Mediterranean coast 150m. Visit [www.la-cypriette.com](http://www.la-cypriette.com) email [kevin.harman@freeuk.com](mailto:kevin.harman@freeuk.com) or ring 01702 470926.

**TENERIFE**, two-bed, two-bathroomed villa, at Amarilla Golf on south coast, sleeps six. Sea view, satellite TV. From £300 per week. Ring Dave Britton on 01702 201701.

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**TURKEY**, two-bedroomed apartment, sleeps six, air conditioned, shared pool. Tranquil setting, 150 yards from Mediterranean beach, two hours from ski-ing. £200 per week. Ring Roy on 07803 522737.

**TURKEY**, villa, sleeps six adults. Calis, Fethiye, on the south-west coast near Olu Deniz. Well equipped, three double-bedrooms, full air conditioning, close to beach and bars. £275-£325 per week. Ring 07976 065969.

### Cars and bikes

**FORD Puma**, 1.7l, 16v, silver, 73,000 miles, tax and MoT, luxury package, air conditioning, alloy wheels, CD player. Good, clean car. ring 07717 758946/01371 823098.

**MOPED**, 1994 red Piaggio Typhoon with top box, long MoT and tax. Serviced, reliable and in good condition. £350. Phone Rob Cater on 01245 452270.

### Miscellaneous

**AVIATION** books for sale. Over 200 books and air pictorials, back to 1950s. Various subjects. Ring Steve Atkins on 01702 345415.

**HOUSEHOLD** items for sale, incl fridge, freezer, dining tables, display cabinets and TV. Ring Derek Patten on 07958 209909.



● From left: Chief Supt Andy Adams, Chief Supt Graeme Bull, Pankajni Trivedi and Jane Sadler

### Names in the news

# New heads start in departments

## CHIEF Supt Andy Adams has been appointed the new commander of Harlow Division.

He succeeds Chief Supt Peter Coltman, who has moved to Braintree.

Chief Supt Adams, 39, has 20 years' experience with Essex Police. He has had a variety of postings including Tendring, Colchester and Chelmsford, carrying out a mixture of CID and uniform roles.

He has spent the last two and a half years as the Commander of the Criminal Justice Department at HQ, where he was involved in a number of projects aimed at improving the criminal justice system.

Chief Supt Adams said: "I am really pleased to be working in the largest division in the county and look forward to gaining a greater understanding of the division and the communities within it."

And so there's a new boss in charge of the Criminal Justice Department, who's looking forward to 'tackling the many different challenges' ahead.

Chief Supt **Graeme Bull** joined after a year with Corporate Support. The 44-year-old has spent the past 26 years at Harlow, Braintree and Colchester divisions, with stints at the Central Detective Unit (pre-MIS), Drugs Squad, Professional Standards and the National Crime Squad.

Chief Supt Bull is focused on the job ahead. "The criminal justice arena is important because the hard work by police staff and officers can be wasted if we don't get this end of our business right."

"The 'prosecution team' approach is

crucial to meeting the victims' needs and so our relationship with the Crown Prosecution Service and other partner agencies is now more important than ever," he said.

**Pankajni Trivedi** is Essex Police's new Head of Training.

She has spent the last 18 years working for local authorities in Newham, Southwark and Lambeth and is a firm believer that any learning and development strategy supports the delivery of organisational objectives. She also believes in equality of opportunity. Currently studying for an MA, Ms Trivedi is researching how the force's learning and development strategy underpins performance of police officers.

She is familiar with the county as she lives in Ilford and, in her spare time, she keeps a keen eye on her favourite football team's training.

**Jane Sadler** is the new Head of Media and Public Relations.

She is to make sure visible neighbourhood policing is widely understood, that detection and prevention is maximised in the public mind, that fear of crime is driven down, and that the public knows that we are tackling anti-social behaviour.

She has responsibility for internal as well as external communications and will be looking at putting the public at the heart of the force.

Deputy Chief Constable Charles Clark said: "We have an excellent track record in our media and public relations work and a very high-calibre team. This places us in the right position to become a great deal more proactive as we work with new Chief Constable Roger Baker to push up standards across the county."

Jane said: "I hope that I can con-

tribute energy and professionalism to Essex and get it on the map for all the right reasons."

Harlow's Divisional Facilities Assistant **Peter Love** retired last month after nearly 18 years' with the force. The 65-year-old former mail driver joined Essex Police in December 1987.

A former sergeant celebrated his 90th birthday last month is now getting ready to celebrate his Diamond Wedding this month.

**Eric Chambers** joined Essex in 1940, serving time at Chelmsford, Romford and Dovercourt before his last posting at Clacton in 1953. He lives with his wife in Plympton, Devon. His daughter, Alison Hewitt, said: "Many people will still remember my dad and I'm sure they will be pleased to know that he is healthy and still relatively mobile, having only recently given up driving."

### Obituary

**FORMER Insp Philip Millichip** died last month, aged 72. Mr Millichip, of Corringham, served 30 years with the force, spending time at Tilbury, Colchester CID, Walton on the Naze, Grays Rayleigh and Basildon as well as a stint in prosecutions.

### Celebration of a life

THE family of ex-Det Con Colin Prest are to have a celebration of his life, on Friday, September 9, at HQ sports pavilion.

Mr Prest's family would like to invite anyone who worked with or who knew him to have a drink with them on what would have been his birthday.

● Contact Sgt Mike Lee on 01206 762212 for more information.

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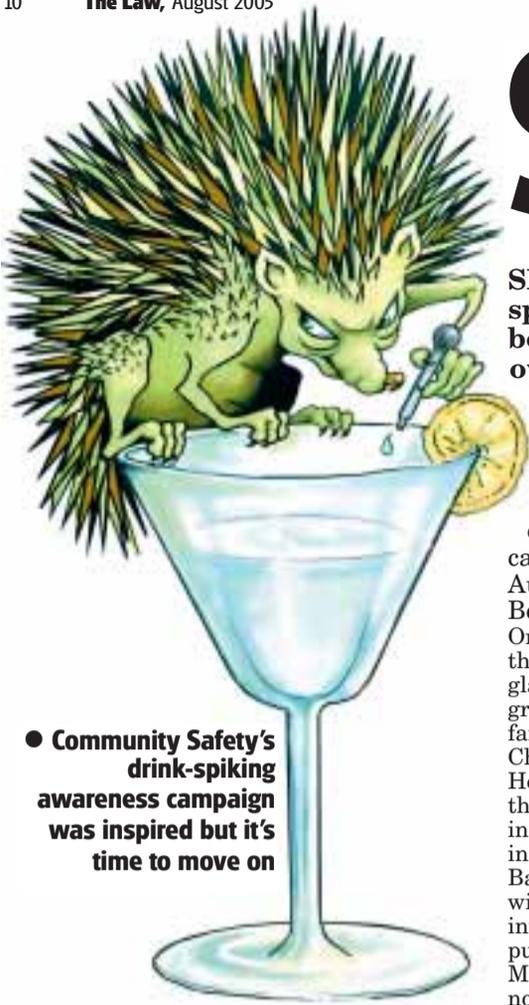
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# Spike's success



**SPIKE, the anti-drink-spiking hedgehog, has become well-travelled over the last 18 months.**

The brainchild of Sgt Nigel Dermott and Pc Victoria Wilson, from Community Safety, Spike has been borrowed, copied and translated and can now be found in Australia, the US and even Botswana and Iceland. Originally designed to be hung on the side of a drinker's unattended glass, the slightly evil-looking, green hedgehog found immediate fame when he was launched at Christmas 2002. He warns people not to leave their drink as someone could slip in drugs - leaving the drinker incapacitated. Bar staff supported the campaign with Spike T-shirts and media interest took the story to the public. More than 80,000 Spikes have now been given out, supported by

Spike the hedgehog has proved a worldwide success but Community Safety are not resting on their laurels, as **Helen Cook** finds out

a poster campaign and, in many police offices, you will find him lurking on a desk. In Harlow after 1,500 were handed out, the team were delighted that at the end of the day they did not find even one Spike discarded. He became an icon for youngsters and drug educators found Spike to be the medium for getting their message across. To date, more than 25 forces have adopted Spike and he even appears in the Licensing Premises Law and Practice book. Sgt Dermott said: "Despite Spike's popularity at raising awareness of the dangers of drink-spiking, we did get some criticism that we were raising fear out of proportion with the

size of the problem." Forensic Science Service test findings show that whilst spiking drinks with drugs does occur, the major problem is with alcohol itself. Sgt Dermott explained: "Alcohol is the drug of choice, whether it is alcohol added to another drink, simply drinking too much, alcohol drunk with prescribed drugs, or even cannabis and cocaine plus alcohol - which is a particularly bad mix. "The actual evidence of drug spiking is sparse." So, while Spike has undoubtedly raised public awareness and people have become more responsible - and generally would no more leave their drink unattended then they would their wallet or handbag - Community

Safety has now refocused on the problem of binge drinking. At Easter, it launched the 'take your beer goggles off' campaign. As well as staff handing out 'beer goggles' that show the distorted view of the world people have when drunk and lenticular cards with moving images, the campaign was supported by a DVD shown in pubs and clubs across Essex. The launch in Colchester was a great success, with the DVD being projected on to the wall of the Jumbo water tower. Sgt Dermott and his department are not resting on their laurels, however. With an accreditation scheme for a Safer Bars Award being considered, a planned documentary with Australian media about drink spiking and investigating a design idea for a twin-skinned glass and a drinks mat that changes colour the longer a drink is left untouched, they are still keen to make a difference and effect change in Essex.

● **Community Safety's drink-spiking awareness campaign was inspired but it's time to move on**

## New baton round will destruct on impact

NEW, safer baton rounds have been issued to all forces to replace their ammunition which complements the less lethal weapons armoury. Whilst Essex has not fired a baton gun operationally since they came into force, research has shown that the new impact rounds - Attenuating Energy

Projectiles (AEPs) - will lessen the potential for serious injury if they inadvertently strike someone on the head. The new round has an energy-absorbing head which destructs on impact. Firearms officers across Essex have been issued with the new round which in all other

respects is the same as its predecessor. Firearms Manager Chief Insp Kevin Bailey said: "The new AEP round provides Essex Police with a less lethal option to firearms that maintains the effectiveness of the old baton round but with improved safety."

## Sport & Leisure



● **Keith Manners conducts the Essex Police Band at the Backnang Strassenfest**

# Police band thrills a huge audience

**THE Essex Police Band found themselves top of the bill at the prestigious Backnang Strassenfest at the end of June.**

It was the 35th annual steet festival and the town centre of Chelmsford's twin town was closed to traffic during the four-day event. It attracted an average 100,000 visitors a day with some 20,000 attending the main arena where the band played on the Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday lunchtime. Numerous stalls, stands and stages were set up to cater for all types of entertainment. The last time the band was invited to play at the festival was in 1995 after which the

local press described it as 'the best visiting band ever to have played at the festival'. Brass bands are a quintessentially 'English thing' and are particularly enjoyed by European audiences, who are more used to bands which include a woodwind section. At the Strassenfest, the band played a huge variety of music, ranging from Mozart to The Flintstones and Superman and the three performances were greatly appreciated by the huge crowds. The Post Horn Gallop went down particularly well. Band chairman Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) Liam Briggins, who accompanied the band for part of the tour, said: "I was delighted to take part in this visit. "The band received an

excellent reception from the local people which was well deserved. "I was proud of all their performances and they were great ambassadors for Essex Police." ● Anyone interested in joining the Essex Police Band can contact Pc Mark Harvey at the Youth Offending team in Colchester on 01206 573188. **Skelly went for the gold!** REPRESENTING the British Police tug-of-war team in the World Police and Fire Games in Canada has netted a Braintree policeman a gold medal. Skelly Lambert helped the team to their gold and the retention of their World Championship.

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## Chelmsford angle for top position

CHELMSFORD division won the Croker Cup beach angling match held at Southend Pier.

The open match attracted 40 anglers, including retired officers and officers from Kent, Norfolk and Hampshire.

Garfish, flounder, bass and mackerel were caught, including a garfish more than 1/2lb over the national specimen size, which won the angler a silver medal from the NFSA.

Croker Cup individual results: 1 Phil Baxter, of Rayleigh; 2 Rod Barrett, HQ; 3 Bob Sandford, Southend.

Croker Cup team results: 1 Chelmsford 184 points; 2 Rayleigh 173; 3 HQ 118; 4 Southend 117; 5 Thurrock 53; 6 Braintree 47 points.

Top individual was John Lacey, from Norfolk, followed by Baxter, with Barrett third.

• Anyone interested in angling and whose division is not proactive in the sport can give sea angling secretary Dave Clark a ring on 01702 332315.

## Phil catches a fresh haul for winners

ESSEX won the eastern region PSUK freshwater angling championships at Stanborough Fisheries, near Hertfordshire Police HQ.

And Phil Brochen won the individual title, too, with a catch of carp and bream weighing 48lb 3oz. The total team catch was 140lb-plus.

The winning team comprised Brochen, of Southend CID, Graham Garnham, of the Dog Section, Daryl Flint, of Shoeburyness, Dave Crichton-Smith, of Stansted Airport and Steve Adams and Paul Chesney, of Southend.

• RETIRED officer Dave Clark has been selected to represent the national PSUK sea angling section in a match against the Combined Services at Portrush in Northern Ireland on August 26.

## Kick-starting Croker Cup

THE Croker Cup year is ticking by – although almost four months have gone by, there have been just three events.

The golf tournament is scheduled for Monday, September 5. Toni Brockwell at Chelmsford on ext 60444 is the organiser.

But other events, such as hockey, netball, cricket and ladies' football could be competed for in the next couple of months before the winter starts creeping up on us.

## Bowled over

STANSTED Airport traffic warden Alan Rees was due to represent Essex in a bowls match against Warwickshire at The Grange in Warwick on August 2.

## Cricketers score a mixed bag of results

BEAUTIFUL weather greeted the annual fixture between Essex CID and Roger Buxton's BBC Essex XI.

CID opened the batting at East Hanningfield CC but Dan Fallows fell to a fast-rising ball that touched his glove in only seven minutes.

Richard Melton was then joined by Glyn Evans and later Richard Brown and they began to build a good innings. Evans went for 57 in as many minutes, followed by captain

Phil Mellon, with 32, and Brown with 45. A total of 209 for seven was a satisfactory score at tea.

Buxton's XI's opening partnership stayed together for 30 minutes before the bowling of Bob Miller and Mike Long left the opposition at 37 for five. The side finished on 126-six and got an honourable draw.

• In light of the events in London on July 7, it was appropriate that the Gents of Essex CID and Sports Pro Ltd

guests be hosted by the Mayor of Bedford's Asian XI at Bedford Town Cricket Club in a 20/20 game on July 13.

Apu Bagchi's team contained a current Indian and former Indian Test players among a gathering of very good local talent.

CID elected to bat with Paul and Ness putting on a partnership of 41 before both being stumped coming down the wicket to drive the slow bowling of Joshi.

CID wickets succumbed at regular intervals mainly to Joshi and Sahal before CID completed the innings with 94.

The Bedford side were checked for the first eight but then the team scored freely for the next five to reach the total set by CID with seven overs to spare and 10 wickets.

The team was far too strong for the Essex men but they were glad to have played at what is a difficult time for the Moslem community.

# Lifesavers sweep the board at ACPO

## THE Essex Police women's lifesaving team has won the ACPO national lifesaving championships.

Both the men's and the women's teams entered the competition in Liverpool and each took part in four disciplines over two days.

After dealing with a land-based first aid incident, a 13-metre rope throw against the clock and a 50-metre swim followed by towing a casualty 50-metres,

again against the clock, the women's team were placed first while the men were lying in 13th position.

On the second day, teams took part in a water-based incident held in a dock and had to rescue casualties from the water within three minutes.

The women's team, which trains at the Riverside pool in Chelmsford, retained their lead and took the Allington Cup, while the men improved their position to finish 11th overall.

In fact, the five-woman team won both the combined land and water-based

incidents for the first time.

They were Paddy O'Toole – who works at HQ in Chelmsford – Sue Clark – who works at Southend – Sarah Pike – based at Great Yeldham Police Station – Sarah Frost – of Braintree Police – and Karen Mihill – who works at Stansted Airport.

An individual event ran alongside the team competition, and Sarah Pike came second – based on her results in the rope throw and swim and tow competitions.

• Anyone interested in joining the team can contact Sarah Pike via email.



• Members of the Essex Police Choir toured the Welsh Valleys and learned some local history during their visit to Ferndale

Photo by Norman Eastbrook

## Choir perform in the Land of Song

MEMBERS of the Essex Police Choir were reunited with old friends in Wales when they performed with the Cor Meibion Morlais. They last sang together two years ago when the male voice choir were guests of Essex Police Choir at an annual concert.

June's concert in Ferndale was extremely successful with numerous compliments on the choir's performance – praise indeed from a valley whose population has six male voice choirs, with

exacting high-performance standards.

Following the concert both choirs joined up at the local hotel for the 'after glow', and the locals enjoyed another impromptu concert.

On the Sunday, the choirmaster from Cor Meibion Morlais joined the coach and led a tour of the area, informing choir members of many interesting facts of Welsh history. They finished in Cardiff and had the opportunity to listen to a male voice choir from

North Wales performing in the atrium of the Opera House.

The visit also gave the choir the opportunity to thank former Chief Constable David Stephens and his wife Pat for their support over the past six years.

Choir chairman Peter Simpson and Norman Eastbrook, Director of Music, also made presentations to the couple on behalf of the choir, wishing Mr Stevens a healthy and happy retirement.

• HOT on the heels of their Best Of British performance, members of Essex Police Musical Society start rehearsing this month for My Fair Lady.

This much-loved classic will be staged at the HQ Assembly Hall from February 13 to 18, 2006 – the society's 40th anniversary year.

Anyone interested in taking part or in helping back stage or front of house can contact Jenny Hillyard on ext 50335.

## Our top-prize lottery winner also bags a cuddly bear

THE winner of July's top force lottery prize of £3,000 is Det Con Beverley Bannerman, of Chelmsford CAIU. Sgt Daniel Barber, of Pitsea, won £1,000 and Elaine Campbell, of Braintree, won £500.

Winners of the £100 prizes are: Bonita Pearce, of photographic in HQ Crime Division; Sgt Robin Wyatt, seconded from NCS; Pc Lisa Hawkins, of

Basildon; Sgt Kim Pearson, of Loughton; Det Sgt Robert Sandford, of Southend CID; Pc Martin Holloway, of Stansted Airport; and John Coyle, retired. Winners of the £50 prizes are: Maureen Taplin, of Harlow; John Martin, of Southend; Pc Steven Holgate, of Rayleigh RPU; Pc Terence Bragg, of Chelmsford; Lee Washbrook, of HQ Crime Division; James Rawlinson, of

HQ IT; and Det Con Jane Gladding, of Clacton CID.

And the winners of cuddly, 12in teddy bears, donated by Benenden Healthcare, are: Trevor Gernon, of Transport Services; Zylva Goodchild, of HR; Pc Sarah Paterson, of Chelmsford; Pc Tina Royles, of HR; Pc Joanne Kerly, of Harlow; and Det Con Beverley Bannerman, of Chelmsford CAIU.

## Very lucky bounce only gets golfer five yards

THE sunny climes of the Langdon Hills Golf and Country Club hosted the second Basildon Divisional Golf Championship with 21 entries from people with differing standards.

Reigning champion Dave Britton put up a valiant display but was soundly beaten by Lee Hull, who went on to win the Scratch competition by two strokes.

The handicap contest was won by Lee Gadsby, one point ahead of Simon Lister. John Kerr won the longest drive and nearest the pin was won by Terry Barrow.

Shot of the day came from Nick Graham, who, when teeing off at the 16th, sliced his shot into a tree to his right. The ball then rolled back into play and landed five yards ahead of him.

• THE fifth annual golf day organised in memory of former colleague Mick Frost, who died of cancer, has been arranged for August 24 at Braintree Golf Club (BGC), Stisted.

Now in its fifth year, the day will start with coffee and bacon rolls followed by a nine-hole team event.

Following lunch a full-handicap Stableford competition takes place. Donna Frost and her daughters Alice and Emily will present the prizes, including the nearest the pin, at the end of the day.

The £37 cost is discounted for members of BGC and all standards of golfer are invited to enter. Contact Peter Orpe by email to do so.

• KEITH Davies, of Crime Squad, finished ninth out of 105 at the British Police Golf Championships in Belfast.

As a result of coming in the top ten, he was asked to represent the national PSUK in a match against the Civil Service, which was due to take place at Walton Heath Golf Club in London on August 1 and 2.

## Brett's back in the swim

BRAINTREE officer Brett Lummis, 27, competed for the PSUK swimming team at last month's USPE (European) Championships in Berlin.

Lummis, who has swum for 20 years but does not belong to a club, was first called up to represent the PSUK team two years ago.

Individually, he came ninth in the 100m backstroke and tenth in the 100m breaststroke while his team came sixth in the medley relay.

Brett was part of a team of around 20 competitors taking part in the five-day long-course championships, which saw 25 countries competing.

## Marathon chance

FOR those of you dreaming of running in the Flora London Marathon, now's your chance.

Entry forms for next year's event on April 23 are available from most sports shops. Closing date is October 21.



● PCSOs Ben Mearing and Dorian Atkins have big ideas for policing the 300 miles of Essex coastline and inland waterways and are liaising between Essex Police and the county's marine community, providing reassurance and support where necessary

## Not simply messing about on the river

THE marine community of Essex is the first in the country to benefit from the high-visibility reassurance of police community support officers.

Two officers – Dorian Atkins, 34, and Ben Mearing, 26 – joined the Burnham-based unit full-time at the start of last month and are already making their mark.

Already they have re-activated Marine Watch for the water-based community and now they are compiling a database so details of boats can be registered for use if they are stolen.

“If it involves water and it floats, it's ours” said Ben.

Their remit is the same as PCSOs working elsewhere in the county, providing public reassurance and gathering intelligence.

Although primarily land-based, their role is being developed and they will undergo basic marine training so that they can get out on the water where necessary.

Dorian said: “It's such a new job as a PCSO that we have a lot of scope. As a police officer it would be difficult to get into a specialist role so quickly. The job is what we

make of it because we are the first specialist PCSO appointments in the country.”

Already guidelines for PCSOs will have to change - eg allowing them to drive 4x4s rather than Smart cars - and, if the pair prove effective, it may well open up the possibility for other PCSOs to serve with Mobile Support Divisions.

Chief Insp Tim Stokes, who is in overall command of marine operations in Essex, said: “The sea and the waterways are a way of life for a large number of people and, as such, those people form an affinity in the same way as communities living in a village.

“As with any community they can sometimes be hard to reach, they have concerns that are close to their hearts and can be a very good source of specialist information.

“We hope that their interaction with Dorian and Ben will improve communication, break down barriers, provide reassurance and identify intelligence that can help in the prevention and detection of marine crime.”

## Farewell to 'full English' breakfasts

THE force's canteens served their last 'full English' at the end of July with the final phasing out of catering services at Harlow, Southend and Chelmsford.

Changes to the service at HQ will begin following the refurbishment of the training centre canteen, expected to be completed by March 2006. That will then become the main catering facility for Essex Police with the HQ canteen becoming a café/snack and go facility.

Contractor Sodexo Catering has retained the contract for the HQ catering and canteen - the new deal was due to come in on August 1.

The reorganisation was announced last year after a review of the cost and demand for catering services across the force.

Reduction in demand has meant that average daily takings decreased significantly at all canteens, while the force faced a £280,000 modernisation bill.

Director of Finance and Administration Rick Tazzini said: “Sodexo Catering staff have provided an excellent service to Essex Police over the years. But these changes will save the force around £300,000 each year, which we can redirect to the front-line.”

However, all bases where canteens have been closed have shops and food outlets nearby and, in some cases, a sandwich delivery service has been put in place with an option for vending services.

Nigel Cook, a caseworker for Southend FMU, said he had appreciated the canteen during his 32 years with the force.

“In the last two or three years, the canteen has been superb,” he added.

# Simply the best for probationers

**A NEW unit dedicated to giving probationers the best possible training has been opened at South Woodham Ferrers police station.**

The Professional Development Unit (PDU) is a resource centre to provide learning, development and assessment of trainees, as well as officers who require further tuition.

It was established following the Home Office revamp of training for new Pcs, which has led to the new Initial Police Learning and Development Programme.

The programme replaces the previous two-year, six-stage training which all officers underwent and gives forces responsibility for probationer training either through Centrex or their own provision.

However, from April, Centrex will no longer carry out probationer training.

Project co-ordinator Jan Durr said the emphasis would be on balancing taught

by **Ben Pennington and Ken Bailey**

material with selecting the most beneficial operational jobs for probationers to learn from.

Assistant Chief Constable (Personnel) Andy Bliss officially opened the unit at the police station in Tylers Ride and two more units are scheduled to be opened in the future, although locations have yet to be decided.

The PDU currently has 23 probationers and 16 tutors from Rayleigh, Southend and Chelmsford divisions. At present, the probationers arrive after having spent 12 weeks at Ashford and four at HQ, but from April, the PDU and Essex Police Training Centre will be totally responsible for their training.

Two tutors and three probationers form teams but it is expected that tutoring will eventually be done on a one to one ratio.

Tutors will be able to attend policing incidents that reflect a probationer's development needs, providing them with

a protected learning environment. It means they are able to see the incident through from beginning to end and deal correctly with each part of it, looking at how various departments, skills and partners work together.

This will involve, for example, attachments to the coroner's office, Victim Support, scenes of crime and crime management units as well as visits to court houses.

Development and Training Officer Pc Simon Halford said: “The probationers are responsible for their performance from day one.

“We have the luxury of being able to identify specific needs for each individual and working on that to tailor their training accordingly.

“What divisions get as a result is an officer who is more than capable of dealing with the majority of incidents.

Work is being undertaken in developing the training to include work with PCSOs's, returnees, Specials, transferees and others with identified needs.

## From backlogs to best performance

THE force's Vetting Unit has been hailed as one of the highest achievers in the country after clearing a huge backlog of security checks.

The team has been given this year's Most Improved Force award by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

The CRB was established three years ago to provide a disclosure service for recruitment and licensing purposes.

As part of that service, police forces are required to undertake checks on people who require an 'enhanced disclosure'.

That means a full examination into people whose employment will involve a lot of unsupervised work with children or vulnerable adults.

The Vetting Unit receives 8,000 enhanced disclosure requests from the CRB each month, requiring checks against various databases.

By summer 2004, there were 12,500 outstanding applications. However, by working closely with IT and other departments, the backlog was cleared by September.

Unit manager Jo Walden said: “Since then the unit has

gone from strength to strength and we are now one of the best-performing units in the country.”

● THE Home Office Police Standards Unit, responsible for monitoring police leadership programmes throughout the country, has officially recognised the good practise shown in the force's ACTION programme.

Project director Dick Madden and manager Laurie Posner were asked to visit another force to assist in developing their programme.

They outlined the princi-

ples behind ACTION and will re-visit the force to provide further assistance.

Mr Madden said: “Our own leadership programme is clearly amongst the best and has now been acknowledged as such.

“We are delighted to have been chosen to assist another force in the development of a leadership programme of its own, based on the Essex model.”

In June, ACTION won Human Resources the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development Police Forum Best Practice Award.

## Not too busy to track down contraband

STAFF at Chigwell motorway control centre helped prevent around £250,000 of contraband cigarettes from reaching the streets.

Staff at the M11 building were called into action after reports from HM Customs and Excise that a lorry containing the tobacco products had entered the county from Kent, en route to Nottingham.

Despite the relatively heavy flow of traffic on a busy morning, staff still managed to locate the vehicle using the centre's motorway cameras, and tracked it until road policing officers were able to stop it.

Around a million cigarettes were found in a cupboard in the trailer by HM Customs and Excise officers, who later detained two men.

## Steve gets on his bicycle

STEVE Brewer swapped his car for a bicycle to pedal the length of Britain for charity.

Steve, 46, unit commander of Stanway RPU, took to the saddle with his son Thomas, 18, to raise funds for the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association.

He was prompted to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats for the charity after his father John died, aged 76, from MND 18 months ago.

The pair cycled 1,029 miles in 15 days with only two punctures between them and raised about £1,000.

It is the second time Steve has cycled the distance and, although he wouldn't rule out doing it again - 'downhill from Scotland' - he says there are a lot of other routes he wants to cycle first.

